

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that the above-identified application contains two patentably distinct inventions, namely, the invention of claims 1-14, drawn to a method for preparing nanoparticle conjugates, and the invention of claims 15-22, drawn to nanoparticle conjugates. The Examiner has required that Applicant select one of the above-identified inventions for the prosecution of the present application. Applicant hereby elects claims 1-14 for further prosecution. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 15-22 be withdrawn without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-14 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes there are no other fees associated with this Amendment. However, if the Examiner considers any fees due in conjunction with this or any future communication, authorization is given to charge payment of such fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments that would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,



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